

defended, to serve it, and to live or die for it.”;

Whereas the first military engagement of Casimir Pulaski with the British was on September 11, 1777, at the Battle of Brandywine, and his courageous charge in this engagement averted a disastrous defeat of the American Cavalry and saved the life of George Washington;

Whereas, on September 15, 1777, George Washington elevated Casimir Pulaski to the rank of Brigadier General of the American Cavalry;

Whereas Casimir Pulaski formed the Pulaski Cavalry Legion, and in February 1779, this legion ejected the British occupiers from Charleston, South Carolina;

Whereas, in October 1779, Casimir Pulaski mounted an assault against British forces in Savannah, Georgia;

Whereas, on the morning of October 9, 1779, Casimir Pulaski was mortally wounded and was taken aboard the American ship USS *Wasp*, where he died at sea on October 11, 1779;

Whereas, before the end of 1779, the Continental Congress resolved that a monument should be erected in honor of Casimir Pulaski;

Whereas, in 1825, General Lafayette laid the cornerstone for the Casimir Pulaski monument in Savannah, Georgia; and

Whereas, in 1929, Congress passed a resolution recognizing October 11 of each year as Pulaski Day in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That Casimir Pulaski is proclaimed to be an honorary citizen of the United States posthumously.

#### DISCHARGE AND REFERRAL—S. 473

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 473 and that the bill be referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2009

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until tomorrow morning at 10 a.m., March 3; that following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 1105, the Omnibus appropriations bill; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 to 2:15 p.m. for the weekly party conference lunches.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, under the previous order, at 11:45 a.m., the Senate will vote in relation to the McCain amendment.

#### ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that following the statement of Senator ALEXANDER, the Senate adjourn under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I express my appreciation to my friend from Tennessee for his courteousness, which is always the case.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

#### APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader. On his comments about the omnibus appropriations bill, two brief points. One is that, of course, all Senators welcome the opportunity to debate and amend the bill. Senator BYRD has argued eloquently, as the majority leader himself has, that the opportunity to debate and amend bills is an important part of what makes the Senate unique. We often tend to argue that point more eloquently when we are in the minority. Amendments and debate are what make the Senate the Senate. It gives us a chance to represent the people who send us—the people for whom we work. All of us on the minority side appreciate that this year the majority leader has—as we believe he should, but nevertheless he has—tried to create an environment in which we can debate and amend. Obviously, amendments aren't going to always be amendments we agree with. I don't agree with all the amendments that come from our side either, but I appreciate that chance to offer amendments, and we would like to see the Senate function in a way that gives us a chance to represent the people who hire us.

Second, I suspect every member of the Appropriations Committee and most Members of the Senate hope we can get back to the practice of passing our appropriations bills one by one and acting on them before the beginning of the fiscal year, which is October 1. I would hate to think how much of the taxpayers' money we must waste each year by missing that deadline, but grouping these measures together into giant “omnibus” bills, and by passing continuing resolutions which don't take into account the differences of opinion among members of Congress and the administration about budget priorities. I would hope we could get back to the practice of finishing our work and taking the bills one by one as we did not so long ago.

I appreciate the majority leader mentioning the fact that we will be debating all week on this appropriations bill, to try and give this massive bill the scrutiny it deserves. It would have been much better if these nine appropriations bills had been enacted last

year, before October 1, and we could take them into account when we voted on the stimulus bill last week. That is the way we should have been able to do that, but we weren't.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would say to my friend who has been Governor of his State and a Cabinet Secretary, ran for President, and now a Member of the Senate, I think he has a foundation of understanding how important it is that we move these appropriations bills. This is a difficult situation. We have done it quite a few times in recent years, and it is not the best way to legislate. The Senator from Tennessee and I agree on that.

I have to say to my friend, there are a number of people in my caucus who come to me and say: Why are you making us take these tough votes and why are you talking about more votes on this bill? Because in keeping with what the Senator from Tennessee said, I hope we can continue doing this. I think the Republicans have not offered some easy amendments—I wish they had been a little easier on us—but that is the way it is. That is why I wanted to spend a little time this evening talking about the range of amendments we already have which have been hard votes and perhaps hard for both sides in many respects.

I support the statement of my friend from Tennessee that we are all going to try to arrive at the same place. It is just that how we get there sometimes doesn't correlate.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I thank the majority leader.

#### IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN WARS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I have two topics I wish to speak about this evening: One on Iraq and one on higher education. First, on Iraq and Afghanistan. President Obama on Friday told marines at Camp Lejeune and the world how the United States plans to end the war in Iraq. The President's plan turns out not to be so different than the agreement President Bush signed with Iraq just before he left office. Add Senator MCCAIN's name to the list because on Friday he generally supported President Obama's decision. For the first time, I think it can be said we have a bipartisan consensus—and a consensus between the Congress and the President—about how to honorably and successfully conclude the war in Iraq.

Ironically, this is a bipartisan consensus that comes 2 years later than it could have. Because what President Bush and President Obama and Senator MCCAIN seemed to agree on today is also a course that is consistent with the recommendations of the bipartisan Iraq Study Group headed by former Republican Secretary of State James Baker and former Democratic House Foreign Affairs Chairman Lee Hamilton. That is not just my judgment. I asked Secretary Rice, the former Secretary of State, whether the agreement